

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A seatbelt use indicating apparatus comprising:
  - a detector that detects whether a seatbelt is used;
  - a use indicator that indicates that the seatbelt is used based on a result of detection provided by the detector; and
  - a non-use indicator that indicates that the seatbelt is not used based on a result of detection provided by the detector.
2. The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the use indicator and the non-use indicator are formed by a single indicator device that indicates a state where the seatbelt is used and a state where the seatbelt is not used, in different indication fashions.
3. The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the indication fashions relate to at least one of a display color, a display brightness and a display state.
4. The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of a plurality of the detectors, one of a plurality of the use indicators and one of a plurality of the non-use indicators are provided for each of a plurality of seats in a vehicle.
5. The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector detects the state of use/non-use of the seatbelt based on whether a tongue plate is engaged with a buckle portion.
6. The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the use indicator and the non-use indicator use an LED to indicate whether the seatbelt is used.
7. A seatbelt use indicating method comprising the steps of:
  - detecting whether a seatbelt is used;
  - indicating that the seat belt is used based on a result of detection; and
  - indicating that the seatbelt is not used based on a result of detection.
8. The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein a state where the seatbelt is used and a state where the seatbelt is not used are indicated in different

indication fashions by a single indicator device.

9. The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 8, wherein the indication fashions relate to at least one of a display color, a display brightness and a display state.

10. The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein a detection regarding the state of use/non-use of the seatbelt, an indication that the seatbelt is used, and an indication that the seatbelt is not used are provided for each of a plurality of seats in a vehicle.

11. The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein whether the seatbelt is used is detected based on whether a tongue plate is engaged with a buckle portion.

12. The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein an LED is used to indicate whether the seatbelt is used.